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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF HINDLEY.



FIFTY-FOURTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

TOGETHER WITH THE

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1954.

HINDLEY:

FRED BRADLEY & SON LTD.

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THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HINDLEY.

Chairman of the Council:

Councillor F. GREEN, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

Councillor R. OLLERTON.

Members of the Council:

Councillor Miss E. E. BERRY, J.P.

(From May, 1954).

Councillor J. BRACEGIRDLE

(From March, 1954).

Councillor E. DOBSON.

Councillor J. DUCKER.

Councillor Mrs. H. FARRIMOND..

Councillor E. GRIME.

Councillor C. J. G. HOLLAND.

Councillor T. ISHERWOOD.

Councillor O. MURRAY, C.C.

Councillor J. POWELL, J.P.

Councillor J. W. THORLEY.

Councillor I. WEBSTER

(Until May, 1954).

Councillor A. WOODCOCK.

Chairman of the Health Committee:

Councillor J. W. THORLEY (County Alderman).

Vice-Chairman of the Health Committee:

Councillor WM. BLAKELEY.

Clerk of the Council:

F. HICKSON, A.C.C.S.

Medical Officer of Health:

G. H. POTTER, M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Consultant Obstetrician:

R. L. HARTLEY, M.D., F.R.C.S., M.R.C.O.G.

Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon:

H. B. BARKER, M.B.B.S., LOND., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

County Dental Surgeon: — T. N. ASHALL, L.D.S. (Liverpool).

Sanitary Inspectors:

J. T. HAMPSON, Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute and S.I.E.J.B.

Meat Inspector's Certificate—Royal Sanitary Institute.

Smoke Inspector's Certificate—Royal Sanitary Institute.

G. H. WATCHORN, Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute & S.I.E.J.B.

(until 4th September, 1954).

Clerical Staff:

Miss E. RIGBY.

Public Health Department,

Town Hall,

Hindley.

To the Chairman and Members of the Hindley Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1954.

The Report is again much abbreviated, in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, but an endeavour has been made to embrace the most important details, and particularly those which indicate the state of health of the township.

I would like to take this opportunity of tendering my best thanks to the Officials of the Council and to the staff of the Health Department for valuable help and co-operation at all times.

I desire also to express to the Members of the Public Health Committee my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration they have always displayed towards me.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

G. H. POTTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area: 2,612.21 acres.

Population (Preliminary Census, 1951): 19,414.

Estimated, mid-1954 (Registrar General): 19,270.

Total Number of Houses (Census 1931): 5,140.

Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1954 according to Rate Books: 5,845.

Rateable Value £81,179.

Sum represented by Penny Rate: £315.68.

Hindley is essentially an industrial area. A cotton mill, a weaving shed, a paint works, an asbestos works, a steel scaffolding works, and five clothing factories, give employment to both sexes.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
Live Births—Legitimate	....	119	128	247
Illegitimate	....	4	2	6
		<hr/>		
Total	....	123	130	253

		Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
Still Births—Legitimate	....	6	4	10
Illegitimate	....	—	—	—
		<hr/>		
Total	....	6	4	10

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:—

		Males.	Females.	TOTAL.
Legitimate	7	6	13
Illegitimate	—	—	—
		<hr/>		
Total	7	6	13

DEATHS	124	111	235
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Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population, mid-1954.....	13.1
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	12.2
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births	38

TABLE I.

	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality		
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 pop'n	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	Total		Neo-natal
									No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	
Hindley U.D.C.											
Year 1954	253	*13.1	235	*12.2	10	38	nil	nil	13	51	8 32
Year 1953.....	274	14.2	189	9.8	12	42	nil	nil	8	29	7 26
Year 1952	276	14.3	247	12.8	9	32	nil	nil	7	25	6 22
Year 1951.....	283	14.6	293	15.2	7	24	1	3.45	9	32	3 11
Year 1950.....	304	15.6	269	13.8	7	23	nil	nil	18	59	10 33
" 1949.....	305	15.7	263	13.6	17	53	1	3.11	18	59	--
Avg. 5 years— 1949-1953	—	14.8	—	13.0	—	35	—	1.31	—	41	— —

* Adjusted { live birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.00) = 13.1 per 1,000.
death-rate (comparability factor, 1.13) = 13.8 per 1,000.

Subjoined is a Table showing the causes of the Deaths among Infants under one year of age.

T A B L E I I.

ANALYSIS OF INFANT DEATHS.

Cause of Death.		Total at all periods up to 1 yr.	Under 1 Mth.	1—3 Months.	4—6 Months.	7—9 Months.	10—11 Months.
Atelectasis	....	4	4	—	—	—	—
Congenital							
Malformations	....	1	1	—	—	—	—
Meningitis	....	1	—	—	—	1	—
Prematurity	....	3	3	—	—	—	—
Gastro-Enteritis	....	2	—	1	—	—	1
Pneumonia	....	2	—	2	—	—	—

In the next Table are shown the chief causes of Death and number of Deaths from each cause in 1954 as compared with the previous year:—

T A B L E I I I.

Cause of Death.	No. of Deaths.	No. of Deaths.
	1954	1953
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	1	2
Tuberculosis (Other)	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—

Cause of Death.	No. of Deaths.	No. of Deaths.
	1954	1953
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	—
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	10	4
Malignant Neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus	7	3
Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	3	3
Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus	1	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	14	13
Leukaemia; Aleukaemia	1	1
Diabetes	2	—
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	44	24
Coronary Disease—Angina	28	23
Hypertension with Heart Disease	3	4
Other Heart Disease	32	34
Other Circulatory Disease	12	11
Influenza	4	1
Pneumonia	6	9
Bronchitis	12	14
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	4	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	4	3
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	2	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	8	10
Hyperplasia of Prostate	—	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—
Congenital Malformations	1	4
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	25	12
Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	1
All other Accidents	9	5
Suicide	1	3
Homicide and Operations of War	—	—
	—	—
	235	189
	—	—

2. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS.

Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Laboratories of Wigan Royal Infirmary and the Public Health Laboratory, Manchester, and the arrangements are satisfactory. A report on every examination is made to the Public Health Department.

During 1954 reports were made to the Authority on the following specimens: 8 Samples of Water; 92 Samples of Milk; 21 Ice Cream; 12 Ice Lollies, and 54 Faeces.

AMBULANCE ARRANGEMENTS.

During the year Infectious, Non-Infectious, Accident and Maternity Cases were dealt with by the motor ambulances belonging to the Lancashire County Council stationed at the Hindley Ambulance Station. The service was quite satisfactory.

HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

General Medical and Surgical:—

Ancoats Infirmary, Manchester; Royal Infirmary, Manchester, and Salford Royal Infirmary; Wigan Royal Albert Edward Infirmary; Bolton Infirmary; Billinge Hospital and Leigh Infirmary.

Children:—Pendlebury Children's Hospital and Ancoats Infirmary.

Venereal Diseases:—Wigan Royal Albert Edward Infirmary.

Tuberculosis:—County Sanatoria and Hospitals.

Chronic Sick:—Billinge Hospital and Social Welfare Home, Frog Lane, Wigan.

Mental Diseases:—County Mental Hospitals.

Ear, Nose and Throat:—Manchester and Wigan Infirmarys.

Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia:—Arrangements with the Wigan and Leigh Hospital Management Committee.

These facilities are duly appreciated and freely used by the inhabitants of Hindley.

3. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY.

The Water Supply is conducted from the Rivington water main of the Liverpool Corporation to a service reservoir at Westhoughton, from which it is distributed throughout the district. The supply is constant, good and sufficient, and the possibilities of contamination are very slight.

The piped supply of water to the township was examined four times chemically and four times bacteriologically during 1954. All the samples were found to be satisfactory.

All houses in the district have a piped supply of water from the main, with the exception of 3 houses in the fields.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Drainage System is of the usual type, storm water and sewage being carried away in a common sewer.

Drain testing, flushing, etc., is carried out as required.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action has been required with regard to the pollution of streams.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION (at the end of 1954):—

Number of Privy Middens	17
Number of Closets attached to Privy Middens	21
Number of Pail Closets	17
Number of Freshwater Closets	6122
Number of Waste Water Closets	Nil
Number of Dry Ashpits for Refuse	Nil
Number of Movable Ashbins for Refuse	6122
Number of Houses on Water Carriage System	5803

During the year one pail and three waste water closets were converted to the fresh water carriage system, and two privies were converted to pail closets. There are now no waste water closets in the district.

Fresh water closet accommodation is provided for all new property erected in the district.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

A weekly collection of House Refuse is carried out by the Local Authority, under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Ashbins are emptied regularly by day throughout the year, and three motor vehicles are engaged in the removal of refuse to controlled tips.

There is no destructor in the district.

The Scavenging of streets is under the supervision of the Surveyor.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

Number of visits to premises	1719
Number of re-visits to premises	819
Number of Nuisances discovered	1790
Number of Nuisances abated	1345
Number of Informal Notices served	153
Number of Statutory Notices served	73
Number of Legal Proceedings	Nil

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

147 premises have been visited, but no formal action has been taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950, and the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the ventilation and temperature of shops and offices, and to sanitary conveniences.

During the year the Council undertook to carry out inspection of shops, mainly with regard to the welfare of young persons, for the Lancashire County Council.

CAMPING SITES.

There are none in the district.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Contact is maintained between the Officers of the Health Department and the local Works Managers with regard to smoke abatement.

A time limit of 2 minutes in each half-hour has been fixed for the emission of black smoke from factory and works chimneys.

The Authority is represented on the Manchester and District Smoke Abatement Committee.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are none in the district.

DISINFESTATION.

10 premises were disinfested during the year:—

Verminous or insanitary conditions	4
Infestation by cockroaches	3
Infestation by ants	1
Infestation by wasps	2

Spraying with D.D.T. powder and solution has proved effective except in the case of the ants, where Chlordane was used effectively.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are none in the district.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are none in the district.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Regular visits were paid to factories and workshops under the Factories Act, 1937, and their condition was found satisfactory.

SCHOOLS.

There are 11 schools in the district, all of which have an adequate supply of town's water.

All the schools are provided with separate W.C.'s, each with its own flushing cistern and drainage to public sewers.

4. HOUSING.

The township consists chiefly of working class houses, which are built in rows, and old in type.

The standard of repair has been well maintained, despite the great difficulties of shortage of labour and building materials.

A revised housing survey would be necessary to ascertain reasonably accurately the extent of overcrowding in the district. During the year, 18 cases of known overcrowding were relieved by the allocation of Council Houses.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of new houses erected during the year:

(a) Total	24
(i) By the Local Authority	20
(ii) By other Authorities	—
(iii) By other bodies and persons	4

1. INSPECTION of dwelling-houses during the year:

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	400
(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose	1219
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	—
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	—

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 5

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 366

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS during the year without service of Formal Notices:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 298

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS during the year:

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners —

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners —

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 69

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :

(a) By Owners 40

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners —

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936; L.G. (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953, Sec. 10:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made (Dwelling Houses)	2
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding:

(a) Revised survey necessary to ascertain reasonably accurately.	
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	—
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	18
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	54

5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

An adequate supply of milk is produced within, or brought into the district.

During 1954 92 samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, the standards adopted being the Methylene Blue Test, together with the Phosphatase Test in the case of Pasteurised Milk. 88 samples were satisfactory and 4 unsatisfactory.

When a cow is suspected of suffering from any disease, the County Police arrange for a local Veterinary Surgeon to examine the animal.

(b) MEAT.—There are no slaughterhouses in the district.

Routine inspections are made of meatshops, etc., and the Meat Regulations are enforced.

No legal proceedings were necessary during the year.

6. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During 1954, cases of Infectious Disease, requiring hospital treatment, were removed to the Whelley and Astley Hospitals of the Wigan and Leigh Hospital Management Committee.

69 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, as against 15 in 1953, and of the 69 cases, 15 were removed to hospital for treatment.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year.

Supplies of Diphtheria Antitoxin are kept at the Divisional Health Office and the local Hospitals.

Free immunisation against Diphtheria is provided for any pre-school or school-child, and is performed at the Central Clinic. During 1954, 156 pre-school and 68 school children were immunised with two injections of Alum Precipitated Toxoid, and 216 children received reinforcing injections.

No preliminary and no post-Schick tests were undertaken.

No immunisation against the Enteric Group was undertaken during 1954.

No local action has been taken with regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation, and there are no existing facilities for the typing of pneumococci and for the provision of appropriate type sera.

The general standard of cleanliness and habits in the district remains high, and the cases of infestation by head lice dealt with at the Clinic were few, and were successfully treated with D.D.T. Emulsion.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN.

Byelaws for the clean handling of food, made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were adopted by the Council during the year, 1951.

No. of food premises in the district at the end of the year:—

Type of business.	No.
General grocers and provision dealers	92
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	10
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game, etc.)	5
Meat Shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.)	31
Bakers and/or confectioners	19
Fried fish shops	30
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc.	20
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack-bars, and similar catering establishments	90
Others	3

No of food premises registered under Section 115 and 116 of the Lancashire County Council (Rivers Board and General Powers) Act, 1938:—

Type of business.	No. registered at 31.12.54.	Number of inspections during the year.
Premises registered for the sale of ice-cream and preserved food	68	60
Food Hawkers Storage Premises	7	7

During the year small quantities of foodstuffs have been surrendered. Blown tins, etc., have been buried at the foot of the refuse tip.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No action was taken by the Authority during the year, under Section 47 of this Act.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1954.

T A B L E I V.

Number of cases of Infectious Disease notified; number of Deaths from these Diseases; number of cases removed to Hospital; and Deaths in Hospital during the year 1954.

DISEASE	Total Cases All Ages	Under 1	1-3	3-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and Over	Age Unknown	Total Deaths	Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital persons belonging to district
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	69	—	5	11	47	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	15	—
Diphtheria, including Membranous Croup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever excluding Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles (excluding rubella)	124	1	23	40	58	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	110	8	31	31	37	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	8	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	4	3	—	6	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis infective	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post Infectious	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	7	—	2	1	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	3	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	323	9	61	83	145	7	2	6	4	6	—	6	16	—

DISINFECTION.

Disinfection of premises and materials is carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department.

All dwelling-houses are dealt with on death, removal to hospital, or release from isolation of infectious cases.

During 1954, 65 houses were disinfected by the Department.

Houses are disinfected by the method of Formalin Spray or Sulphur Dioxide, and it is usual in the district to disinfect after Phthisis.

During the early part of the year clothing, bedding, etc., was disinfected in the Steam Disinfector of a neighbouring authority.

A vertical boiler was installed in February to provide a supply of steam to the Council's Disinfector in Cross Street. The Disinfector Station was in use for the remainder of the year.

CANCER.

35 deaths (19 males and 16 females) were certified as due to Cancer during the year.

Facilities for Radium treatment are available to Hindley residents at the Radium Institute, Manchester, and at the Wigan Infirmary, which, for this purpose, is a sub-clinic of the Manchester Centre.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

No local action has been taken under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness, or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

The administration of the Blind Persons Act, 1920, is undertaken in this area by the staff of the County Medical Officer of Health.

TUBERCULOSIS.

This service is under the control of the Regional Hospital Board, and Hindley cases attend at the Chest Clinic, Millgate, Wigan.

15 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during 1954, 12 being cases of Pulmonary, and 3 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. One death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was registered during the year.

Notification of the disease in the district is quite satisfactory, and no action has been necessary under the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal of tuberculous patients to Hospital.

The subjoined Table shows the new cases of Tuberculosis and the deaths in age groups.

T A B L E V.
TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2—5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65—75	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
75 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	8	4	2	1	1	—	—	—
	12		3		1		—	

TABLE VI.

Causes of and Ages at Death for the Year 1954.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of Residents whether occurring within or without the District.																	
	Under 1		1 to 2		2 to 5		5 to 15		15 to 25		25 to 45		45 to 65		65 and Up.		All ages	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1—Tuberculosis, Respiratory	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
2—Tuberculosis, other
3—Syphilitic Disease
4—Diphtheria
5—Whooping Cough
6—Meningococcal Infections
7—Acute Poliomyelitis
8—Measles
9—Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
10—Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	4	2	4	4	4	6	...
11—Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	5	...	2	7	...	...	...
12—Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	1	...	1	...	1	...	3	...	...
13—Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
14—Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	1	4	7	2	8	6	...
15—Leukaemia; Aleukaemia	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
16—Diabetes	1	1	1	1	1	1	...
17—Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	1	3	5	17	18	20	24	...	...
18—Coronary Disease, Angina	10	2	12	4	22	6	...	...
19—Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	1	...	...	2	1	...	...
20—Other Heart Disease	1	...	...	2	1	1	8	19	9	23	...	...	...
21—Other Circulatory Disease	2	...	6	4	8	4	...	...	...
22—Influenza	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	3	...	...	...
23—Pneumonia	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	3	3	...	...	...
24—Bronchitis	4	1	4	3	8	4	...	...
25—Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3	1	...	...	3	1	...	...
26—Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	...	3	...	4	...	...	...
27—Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
28—Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	2	2	3	3	5	...	...
29—Hyperplasia of Prostate
30—Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion
31—Congenital Malformations	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
32—Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	5	4	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	3	2	7	9	16	...	...	...
33—Motor Vehicle Accidents
34—All other Accidents	5	...	...	...	2	...	2	...	9	...	...	...	...
35—Suicide	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
36—Homicide and Operations of War
TOTALS	7	6	1	—	—	1	6	2	—	—	—	6	41	27	69	69	124	111

Sanitary Inspector's Report for 1954



To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report of the work of the Health Department for the year 1954.

During the year, the greater portion of the work carried out has, once again, been concerned with the repair of defective dwelling houses.

The year has been one of steady progress, the sanitary circumstances of the district have been kept under close observation, and attention has been given to the administration of health measures generally.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND GENERAL SANITARY WORK.

Nuisances brought forward from 1953	456
Nuisances discovered during 1954	1790
Nuisances abated during 1954	1345
Number of letters sent	284
Number of Preliminary Notices	153
Number of Statutory Notices	73
Number of School Notices	62
Number of Parents' Notices	42
Number of Houses Disinfected	65
Number of Articles Disinfected	406
Factories	71
Shops	147
Bakehouses	26
Picture Halls	12
Number of visits re Infectious Disease	89

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES DEALT WITH.

Defective Water Supply and Cistern and W.C. Pedestals	150
Defective and Choked Drains	210
Defective Roofs	157
Defective Gutters, Gullies and Downspouts	110
Irregular and Insanitary Yard Surfaces	2
Defective Brickwork to Yard and other Walls	56
Chimney Stacks, Smoky Chimneys	19
Dilapidated Refuse Receptacles	567
Dampness	53
Defective Doors, Door Frames, Windows and Window Frames	106
Insufficient Light and Ventilation	Nil
Insanitary Sinks and Waste Pipes	26
Defective Grates and Wash Boilers	43
Defective Plasterwork	118
Defective Floors	27
Verminous Houses	2
Insanitary Condition of Premises	5
Living Vans so placed	86
Insanitary Condition of Factories and Workshops	2
Other Nuisances	43

HOUSING.

In accordance with the Housing Acts a continuous survey of the housing conditions in the district was maintained, action being taken chiefly under the Public Health Act, as we are unable to work freely under the Housing Acts owing to the acute shortage of dwelling houses. The general standard of housing is fairly good excepting an area comprising about 80 houses in the centre of the town scheduled for clearance prior to the war. The properties have deteriorated in the interim, as only essential repairs to keep them weatherproof and free from serious defects have been carried out.

No applications for improvement grants under the Housing Act, 1949, have been received during the year.

The houses built post-war by the Council and completed to the 31st December, 1954, number 389.

100	—	B.I.S.Fs.
50	—	Orlit.
20	—	3-Bedroom Type C. Traditional.
45	—	1-Bedroom Bungalows.
120	—	3-Bedroom Type Traditional.
54	—	2-Bedroom Type Traditional.

Completed during the year 1954—20.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection and disposal of refuse is carried out by the Local Authority under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. The service is satisfactory and, with the exception of holiday periods, a weekly collection of dustbin refuse has been maintained throughout the district.

Three vehicles, each of the side loading type, with a capacity of seven cubic yards, and 16 men are employed. Two vehicles have been engaged regularly on refuse collection and the third three days per week with the full complement of orderlies. The latter vehicle for the remaining part of the week has been employed in the collection of waste paper from shops, kitchen waste, and emptying the few privy middens that still remain, which are emptied at intervals of six to eight weeks.

A new Karrier Bantam refuse collection vehicle was purchased and put into use during the year.

Refuse is disposed of at three tips—Orrell Street, Scowcroft Street and Leigh Road. These are adequate and entail the minimum haulage. The refuse is disposed of as hygienically as possible and controlled on the lines laid down by the Ministry of Health.

The amount of refuse to be dealt with continues to increase with the gradual growth of housing accommodation, which has been raised post-war by 434. There are 6,122 bins and 17 pails to be emptied weekly. The number of loads from ashbins alone total approximately 3,435, giving a tonnage collection of nearly 7,760 tons. There are now no ashpits in the district.

There are only 21 privies and 17 pail closets in the district, all of which have drainage difficulties.

DUSTBINS.

In May, 1951, the Council exercised their powers under Section 75/3 of the Public Health Act, to supply dustbins for domestic refuse, such expenditure being charged against the General Rate Fund. During the year 567 dilapidated dustbins were replaced, 20 supplied to new Council houses and 4 to new privately-owned properties.

KITCHEN WASTE.

A weekly collection of kitchen waste from the 100 receptacles placed at intervals throughout the district was carried out until the end of March. The contents were conveyed to the Wigan Corporation Depot for treatment. The amount collected for the three months totalled 20 tons.

SALVAGE.

The collection of waste paper continued throughout the year, and every effort was made to induce householders and others to make available waste paper and other materials for salvage. The total amount of waste paper recovered was 105 tons. The incentive bonus scheme of 33 and one-third per cent. over 18 tons per quarter apportioned to the workmen engaged on this work was discontinued.

1954.

			Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	105	0	0	811	11	4
Rags	1	8	3	8	4	6
String and Sacking			2	3		11	0
Tins	2	16	3	7	1	11

TOTAL	109		8	1		827	8	9
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1953.

			Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	125	18	1	963	11	8
Rags	1	3	3	10	19	6
String and Sacking		1	18	1	7	4	5
Tins	3	15	2	9	8	9

TOTAL	132		15	3		991	4	4
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WATER SUPPLY.

All houses in the district have the town's supply laid on excepting:

Barlow's Farm — Agricultural only.

Good Cheap Farm — Agricultural only.

Six Acre Farm — Agricultural only.

MILK SUPPLY.

The consumption of heat-treated milk is rising from year to year. The general public are now demanding bottled milk, with the result that small producers are gradually declining in number. Retail producers on the register were:—10 Producers, 4 Dairymen and 164 Retailers of Bottled Milk (10 Tuberculin Tested, 1 Accredited, 35 Pasteurised and 118 Sterilised).

MILK SAMPLES.

Raw Milk:—

(a) Ungraded—

During the year, 11 samples were submitted to the biological test (examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli). 9 were found to be negative and 2 positive.

The two cases showing evidence of tuberculous infection, one in milk produced within the district and the other in a neighbouring authority, were reported to the Divisional Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Investigations were carried out and in each case resulted in the slaughter of a cow under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

Further samples proved to be negative.

11 samples were submitted to the methylene blue test. 9 were satisfactory and 2 unsatisfactory.

(b) Tuberculin Tested Milk—

One sample was submitted to the biological test and was found to be negative.

One sample was submitted to the methylene blue test and was found to be satisfactory.

Heat Treated Milk:—

(a) Pasteurised—

25 samples were submitted to the phosphatase test. All were satisfactory.

25 samples were submitted to the methylene blue test. All were satisfactory.

(b) Sterilised—

18 samples were submitted to the turbidity test. All were satisfactory.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

This Act prohibits the slaughtering and stunning of animals except by licensed slaughtermen and requires all animals to be stunned by a mechanically operated instrument prior to slaughter. Three persons are licensed by the Council to slaughter under the Act.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Until July, 1954, all butchers' meat was controlled by the Ministry of Food. The meat supply for your district came mainly from the Wigan Slaughter Houses, the distribution centre for this area, local slaughter houses having been out of commission since January, 1940.

There are no slaughter houses in the district.

Domestic pig keepers are allowed to slaughter within certain limits, personally reared and fed animals, by permission of the Ministry of Food.

Pigs (killed for home consumption) inspected—4.

UNSOUND FOOD.

The following table denotes the various foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption, all of which were voluntarily surrendered.

Nature of Food.	Amount Surrendered.
Canned Ham	88 lbs. 13 ozs.
Canned Meat	14 lbs. 8 ozs.
Canned Ox Tongue	38 lbs. 4 ozs.
Cheese	43 lbs.
Canned Vegetables	13 lbs. 5 ozs.
Canned Fruit	152 lbs. 13 ozs.
Jam	1 lb.
Tinned Milk	1 Tin.
Prunes	34 lbs.
Fish Paste	7 ozs.
Dried Egg	5 lbs. 8 ozs.
Apples	600 lbs.
Beef Paste	1 lb. 12 ozs.

BAKERIES AND BAKEHOUSES.

The number of bakeries and bakehouses in the district is 16. Periodical inspections are made. In a few instances it has been necessary to draw occupiers' attention to minor defects. In each case these matters were given prompt attention.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The County Council is the Authority responsible for the carrying out of the provisions relating to food sampling.

The following samples have been taken in the district and submitted for analysis by the County Council's Sampling Officer:—

Milk (formal samples)	48
Dried Peas	1
Cornflour	1
Ground Rice	1

Mustard, compound	1
Ground Ginger	1
Ground Mixed Spice	1
Rice	1
Gravy Browning	1
Tapioca	1
Split Peas	1
Lentils	1
Butter Beans	1
Ground Cinnamon	1
Dried Thyme	1
Meat Pies	1
Mixed Pickles	2
Piccalilli	1
Pickled Cabbage	1
Malt Vinegar	4
Sauce	4
Arrowroot	1
Butter	3
Dried Mint	1
Dried Sage	1
Beef Sausage	1
Golden Raising Powder	3
Salad Cream	1
Currants	1
Sultanas	1
Raisins	1
Ground Almonds	1
Biscuits	1
Mincemeat	1
Herrings (canned)	1
Suet (shredded)	1
Xmas Pudding	1
Cooking Fat	1
Margarine	3

In addition to the above, four ‘‘Appeal-to-Cow’’ samples were taken in the district during the year.

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine, with the exception of the following:—

Sample.	Result of Analysis.	Action taken.
1 Ground Cinnamon	Contained 4.3 per cent. sand and other siliceous matter.	Packers communicated with.
1 formal Milk	Deficient 18.3 per cent. fat and low in solids-not-fat.	Same Vendor. Vendor notified as "Appeal-to-Cow" samples
1 formal Milk	Deficient 3.3 per cent. fat and slightly low in solids-not-fat.	were also poor in fat and low in solids-not-fat.
1 Margarine	Vitamin A content only 595 International Units per ounce against minimum requirements of 760 International Units per ounce.	Importers communicated with and age of stock queried.

ICE CREAM.

There are two manufacturers in the district. Their premises, heat treatment plant and equipment, are consistent with modern standards, and a high degree of cleanliness is maintained. The number of retailers of iced products continues to increase, and we now have 69 on the register. These are chiefly grocers' shops and mixed businesses. Each is provided with a modern refrigerator and sells a pre-packed product.

The grades achieved from the 21 samples submitted to the methylene blue test were as follows:—

15 samples	Grade 1.
6 samples	Grade 2.
Nil	Grade 3.
Nil	Grade 4.

ICE LOLLIES.

The grades achieved from the 12 samples submitted to the methylene blue test were as follows:—

12 samples	Grade 1.
Nil	Grade 2.
Nil	Grade 3.
Nil	Grade 4.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Each house is visited and enquiries made relative to the source of infection and general home conditions. Recommendations are made and advice given regarding isolation of the patient and care to be exercised by contacts.

Public Library Books from infected premises are taken over by the Public Health Department and disinfected before being returned to the Library for re-distribution. Books in an unserviceable condition are, by arrangement with the Librarian, destroyed. 19 Library books were disinfected during the year.

All houses are disinfected after various forms of Infectious Disease, including Tuberculosis, with a solution of Formalin, although Formic Vap lamps in a gaseous form and sulphur candles are used in certain cases.

Schools disinfected—12.

During the year, 65 houses were disinfected after Infectious Disease. 406 articles of clothing passed through the steam disinfector.

Number of articles destroyed, chiefly flock beds and mattresses—39.

DISINFECTION.

Disinfectants supplied free (liquid and powder), special bottles being provided for the liquid. A charge of 6d. is made for the first bottle and is renewed free in exchange for the empty bottle. During the year 355 bottles were supplied—57 sales and 298 re-issues.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector:—

Premises.	Number of Inspections.	Written Notices.
Factories, Mechanical Power (52)	47	2
Factories, Non-Mechanical Power (3)	9	—
Building Sites (8)	15	—
	—	—
	71	2
	—	—

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

In September, 1947, the Council adopted a time limit consistent with the National Smoke Abatement Council's recommendations of a maximum emission of black smoke of 2 minutes per half hour.

No formal action was necessary during the year. Only on rare occasions is it necessary to contact industrial firms, who endeavour to co-operate in every way to minimise the nuisance from smoke.

RODENT CONTROL.

One part-time operative is employed by the Authority. All complaints of infestation by rats and mice were effectively dealt with, and the operative made frequent inspections throughout the district. Farms, refuse tips, sewage disposal works, municipal undertakings and private premises were kept under observation and infestations attacked with excellent results.

The sewers were treated twice during the year, after a 10 per cent. test had been carried out, to comply with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The following abstract from the Annual Report submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries indicates the nature and extent of work carried out.

TYPE OF PROPERTY.

	Local Authority.	Dwelling Houses	Agricul- tural.	All others includ. business premises)	Total.
Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1954, as a result of:—					
(a) Notification	5	176	—	21	202
(b) Survey or otherwise	8	242	13	26	289
Number of properties inspected which were found to be in- fested by rats:—					
Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	4	147	1	7	159
Number of properties which were found to be seriously in- fested by mice.....	3	64	—	6	73
Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority	7	211	1	13	232

The Council give a free service for the treatment of infestations found at dwelling houses, a charge being made for the treating of business premises on a basis of actual cost of labour and materials, plus 20 per cent. administration.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1955.

There are two registered premises within the district.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1950.

Three Pet Shops have been licensed during the year.

CAMPING SITES.

We have no licensed camping sites in the district.

I desire to tender my sincere thanks to the Chairman of the Public Health Committee and the Council, the Clerk, Medical Officer of Health, Surveyor, and other Officials and Members of the Staff, for their co-operation and assistance.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

JAMES T. HAMPSON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Engineer and Surveyor's Office,
Town Hall,
Hindley,
15th March, 1955.

Particulars of Rainfall recorded at Platt Bridge Sewage Works
during the year ending 31st December, 1954.

Height of Rain Gauge—98.64 feet above Sea Level.

Area of Hindley—2612.182 Statute Acres.

Month			No. of days on which rain fell.	Maximum fall in 24 hours in inches.		Total Monthly Rainfall in inches.
				Inches.	Date.	
January	....	....	16	1.35	20th	3.20
February	....	....	19	0.70	6th	4.10
March	....	....	17	0.49	6th	2.61
April	....	....	8	0.19	2nd	0.79
May	....	....	16	0.91	28th	2.27
June	....	....	17	0.74	7th	3.07
July	....	....	23	0.68	27th	4.85
August	....	....	24	0.84	21st	5.35
September	....	....	25	0.43	29th	3.97
October	....	....	27	0.89	23rd	6.73
November	....	....	25	0.88	5th	6.09
					& 8th	
December	....	....	23	0.57	22nd	5.29
Totals for the year 1954	....	....	240			48.32

Total weight of rain which fell in Hindley during the year 1954:—
12,737,007.04 tons.

Previous Annual Rainfall in Inches.

1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
37.96	43.55	37.19	46.15	30.67	37.12	37.80	43.63	45.60	37.07	31.95

The Year's Total Rainfall of 48.32 inches is the highest recorded
since the year 1877, when the total Rainfall was 51.16 inches.

T. G. GRIME, A.M. INST. MUN. E.

Engineer and Surveyor.

